

TV SCREEN COVER

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to devices for reducing the glare and brightness of visual display screens and, more particularly, to a pull-down, retractable shade for television screens.

PRIOR ART

The growth of cable and satellite television has made the TV set one of the most important items in modern homes. With hundreds of channels now available from all over the world, the TV is an important source of news and entertainment for today's households. Twenty-four hour news and sports channels provide around the clock information. As a result, the TV occupies an important position in the home.

Unfortunately, the glare, reflections and flashes of brightness associated with television screens can cause problems. Because the TV set is now used more frequently than in the past, the glare, reflections and flashes of brightness frequently emitted from the TV may bother people in the room who are not watching the TV, but rather, are trying to read, sleep, or otherwise occupy themselves. Often, the TV cannot be positioned to avoid bothering these individuals.

A significant portion of television units currently in use or being sold does not have anti-glare and/or anti-reflective treatments. These TV sets typically experience the

aforementioned problems. The TV sets that do provide some form of anti-glare treatment insufficiently address the issues of reflection or flashes of brightness that inevitably follow. For example, anti-glare treatments such as etching and silica sprays have been utilized, but these reduce the contrast of the television picture by scattering light across the front surface of the television cathode ray tube. In addition, the consumer cannot apply these treatments.

Another problem facing the television industry is that anti-reflection coatings typically cannot incorporate anti-glare coatings because these coatings degrade the resolution of the display. As a result, television manufacturers have not adequately addressed the problems noted above.

Accordingly, a need remains for a TV screen cover that reduces glare, reflection and flashes of brightness without interfering with the quality of the television picture. Also, a need remains for a TV screen cover that simply reduces the volume of light that a TV produces while on.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing background, it is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a device for shading the glare, reflections and flashes of brightness of television screens. These and other objects, features, and advantages of the invention are provided by a TV screen cover including a housing positionable on top of a TV with an elongated first shaft having opposed end portions connected within the housing. A transparent cover member having a width extending along a length of the first shaft is releasably wound thereabout.

The housing further includes a bottom surface provided with a slot disposed in front of a TV screen and a plurality of fastening members, such as common suction cups as well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art, connected to the bottom surface of the housing for removably fastening same to a TV. An elongated second shaft disposed below the first shaft and adjacent the slot, guides the cover member forwardly and downwardly through the slot and along a TV screen.

The cover member further includes a rod connected to a bottom portion thereof that assists a user in uniformly moving the cover member between wound and

unwound positions. The TV screen cover further includes a mechanism for attaching the cover member to a bottom portion of a TV so that the cover member becomes disposed in front of a TV screen for reducing glare and the volume of light emitted therefrom. In a preferred embodiment, such a mechanism may include Velcro material. Alternately, the mechanism may include a clip member connected to the TV and having an arcuate female portion for removably receiving the rod connected to the bottom portion of the cover member when same is at an unwound position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

The novel features believed to be characteristic of this invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing a TV screen cover mounted on a TV, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the housing taken along line 2-2 in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the attaching mechanism taken along line 3-3 in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a bottom view of the housing; and

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view showing an alternate embodiment of the attaching mechanism shown in FIG. 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this application will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the true scope of the invention to those skilled in the art.

The device of this invention is referred to generally in FIGS. 1-5 by the reference numeral 10 and is intended to reduce the glare, reflections, flashes of brightness and volumes of light from TV screens. It should be understood that the TV screen cover 10 may be used on many different types of cathode ray tubes including computer monitors and should not be limited to television screens.

Referring to FIG. 1, the TV screen cover 10 includes a housing 11 positionable on top of a TV and including an elongated first shaft 12 having opposed end portions 13 connected within the housing 11. The housing 11 includes a bottom surface 14 provided with a slot 15 disposed in front of a TV screen. A plurality of fastening members 16, such as conventional suction cups, are connected to the bottom surface 14 of the housing 11 for removably fastening the housing 11 to a TV, as perhaps best shown in FIG. 4. Advantageously, the use of suction cups as fastening members 16 allows a user to easily disengage the TV screen cover 10 and move it to another TV.

Now referring to FIG. 2, the TV screen cover 10 further includes a cover member 20 having a width substantially equal to the length of the first shaft 12 and releasably wound about. The cover member 20 includes a rod 21 connected to a bottom portion 22 thereof for assisting a user to direct the cover member 20 through slot 15 and extend the cover member 20 substantially downwardly therefrom and along a TV screen between wound 23 and unwound 24 positions. The housing 11 further includes an elongated second shaft 17 disposed below the first shaft 12 and adjacent the slot 15 for assisting to guide the cover member 20 forwardly and downwardly through slot 15.

Now referring to FIG. 5, the TV screen cover 10 further includes a mechanism for attaching the cover member 20 to a bottom portion of a TV screen so that the cover member 20 becomes disposed in front of a TV screen for reducing glare emitting therefrom. In a preferred embodiment, as perhaps best shown in FIG. 3, a plurality of Velcro members are disposed at bottom portions of a TV and the cover member 20, respectively. Such Velcro members are substantially alignable with each other and are releasably attachable so that the cover member 20 can be maintained at an unwound position. In an alternate embodiment, as perhaps best shown in FIG. 5, the attaching mechanism may include a clip member 30 connected to a TV and having an arcuate female portion 31 for removably receiving the rod 21 therein and for attaching the cover

member 20 to a bottom portion of a TV so that the cover member 20 becomes disposed in front of a TV screen.

While the invention has been described with respect to certain specific embodiments, it will be appreciated that many modifications and changes may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. It is intended, therefore, by the appended claims to cover all such modifications and changes as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

In particular, with respect to the above description, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the present invention may include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation. The assembly and use of the present invention are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art.